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Following will be found a brief synopsis of American wars, in the order in which they occurred.

FRENCH WAR, 1754.

The French war with the thirteen English American colonies commenced in 1754, and lasted nine years. The taking of Fort Niagara and Quebec, in 1759, virtually closed the war—peace was formally concluded in 1763.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1775.

The first blood shed was in Lexington, Mass., on the 19th of April, 1775, by the British soldiers from Boston, who were ordered to fire on the militia. (*On the same day and month, 1861, the Federal troops, while passing through Baltimore, to defend Washington, were fired upon by the secession mob, and several killed.*) There were twenty-four main battles fought, commencing in April, 1775, and ending with the battle of Yorktown, October 19, 1781. We had fifteen victories and nine defeats. There were engaged 231,791 Continental soldiers. In December, 1783, the treaty of peace was signed, and the PATRIOT army disbanded.

WAR WITH THE NORTH-WESTERN INDIANS, 1791.

Two chief battles, one Nov. 4, 1791, and August 30, 1794.

WAR WITH FRANCE, 1796—8.

War was declared against France. No battles were fought on land, but two extremely bloody ones took place on the ocean. In 1800, Bonaparte being in authority, peace was soon restored.

WAR WITH TRIPOLI, 1801.

War was declared against those states for piracy on, and exacting duties from, our merchant vessels. Peace was restored in 1805.

BURR'S CONSPIRACY, 1806.

The conspiracy of Aaron Burr was first discovered in September, 1806. In May, 1807, he was arraigned at Richmond, Va., on a charge of treason. The affair was settled.

WAR WITH WESTERN INDIANS, 1811.

Gen. Harrison defeated the Indians, under Tecumseh, December 11, 1811. Great loss on both sides.

WAR WITH ENGLAND, 1812.

June 16, 1812, war was declared against Great Britain. There were thirty-four main battles by land and sea. In twenty-five we were victorious, and defeated in nine. New Orleans was the last fight, in which the British forces lost 2,500, and the Americans seven killed and six wounded. Peace was ratified by England, December, 1814, and by the United States, February, 1815.

BLACK HAWK WAR, 1832.

was commenced August, 1832. Gen. Atkinson captured Red Bird, and his successor, Black Hawk. Difficulties ended in same year.

CONSPIRACY OF 1832.

South Carolina opposed the tariff of '28. Georgia, Virginia, and Alabama, sided with her in nullification. The Governor of South Carolina prepared to enforce the resistance. Mr. Calhoun, Vice-President of the United States, resigned. But General Jackson declared nullification to be revolution; that the Union must be preserved, and he prepared to enforce his decrees by arms. The prompt decision of the President brought the nullifiers to submission, and the Union was saved.

TEXAS WAR WITH MEXICO, 1835.

First battle fought October, 1835. Five main battles succeeded. Ended in April, 1846. Four victories and two defeats.

WAR WITH FLORIDA INDIANS, 1835.

First battle fought December, 1835. Lost one in December, 1836. Three victories and one defeat.

WAR WITH MEXICO, 1846.

First battle May 3, 1846. Last one at Chepultepec, September, 1847. Fifteen main battles. In all, we were victorious. Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, furnished, in the course of that war, 22,573 men. Of this force the total loss from disease was 2,931 men. Nine slave states—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky—furnished 22,899 men. The loss from this force by disease, and death caused by disease, was 4,315.

REBELLION OF 1861.

When the Presidential election of 1860 approached, the Democratic convention was held at Charleston. The ultra Southerners took an extreme position upon the slavery question. The moderate Democrats of the North could not sustain them. The party split, and the ultraists

nominated Breckinridge, and the other faction nominated Douglas, as candidates for the Presidency. The Republican convention nominated Lincoln, of Illinois; and the constitutional Union men, Bell, of Tennessee. The campaign was an exciting one, full of party animosity, and hard fought. In the result, Lincoln had 180, Douglas 12, Bell 39, and Breckinridge 72 of the votes of the Electoral College. The Republican candidate was declared elected President of the United States. The South, forgetting the duty of the minority to yield, and, aided by those in the confidence of the Government, commenced plotting for rebellion and civil war.

The following states seceded from the Union to form a Confederacy:

1860, Dec. 20, South Carolina.

1861, Jan. 10, Mississippi, Florida; Jan. 11, Alabama; Jan. 19, Georgia; Jan. 25, Louisiana; Feb. 1, Texas; April 25, Virginia; May 6, Arkansas, Tennessee; May 21, North Carolina.

Feb. 9. The Southern congress met at Montgomery, Ala., and elected Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, President of the so-called southern confederacy, and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, Vice President. The Constitution of the United States, with amendments, was adopted. The President was inaugurated on the 18th. Abraham Lincoln, President elect of the United States, broke up the programme of his route to Washington, and left Harrisburgh, Pa., secretly in a special train for the Federal capitol, assurances having been given him that an attempt would be made to assassinate him on his way through Maryland. On the 4th of March, he was duly inaugurated. The ceremonies were attended with great pomp. Gen. Scott had upwards of 600 troops stationed about the capitol, in anticipation of an outbreak. No disturbance took place.

April 11. Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, was demanded by the South to surrender. Maj. Anderson refused. At 4 a.m., on the 12th, nineteen batteries opened fire upon him—fighting on both sides all day. On the 13th, after an attack of thirty-three hours, the frame buildings in the fort took fire from the hot shot from Fort Moultrie. Major Anderson was compelled to surrender, conditioning, however, that himself and men be allowed to depart, taking their side arms, at their own time, in their own way, and saluting the flag when taking it down, which they did with fifty guns. Two men were killed in firing the last gun in the salute. They were buried at the foot of the flag-staff. The men marched out playing Yankee Doodle, &c., and sailed for New York. Thus South Carolina initiated the rebellion, with 5,000 men and nineteen batteries attacking a garrison of sixty half starved men.

15. The President made his first call for volunteers (75,000,) to maintain the laws of the United States. 17. The 6th Massachusetts regiment was the first to respond. On their way through Baltimore on the 19th, they were attacked by a mob, who killed three soldiers and wounded eight, and lost eleven killed and four wounded. The

President issued a proclamation declaring a blockade of the ports of the seceded states.

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"PEACE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE LAND."

"Let the bells peal welcome. Let the shout pass on along our streets, and everywhere let children, who will tell it to their children, hail the heroes who have won the fight, and greet them with the song,"

"Victory at last."

After four years of fearful war—after one of the greatest struggles the world has known, success has crowned both right and might, deciding that "*This Union is one and inseparable*," and that freedom and universal liberty belong to all who dwell in this great country—half brother to the world—a country where good and bad, the great or poor and oppressed of every land find shelter and a home.

Peace, smiling peace ! returns to bless us, and those who fought in the great fight are going home, their breasts with rapture filled, for it is their day of hope and pride ; but ah, how many will *not* return ! How many firesides will have a vacant chair ! Peace will not bring joy to the hearts bowed down with grief for the loved and lost. When the armies are marching home, proudly keeping step to the drum, little children will run up and look in vain for the parental greeting ; mothers will gaze, ah ! how hopelessly, upon every form for that of her dear boy, and wives, with their hearts full of love, will stand on tip-toe, almost breathless with hope, and joy, and fear, to catch the first fond glance of him whose long absence she has so nobly borne ; some will be gratified—many will look and wait in vain ; but over the graves of the absent heroes the grass will grow greener than on any part of the field

O, may we all become a united and happy people again, and may each State once more become a "bright particular star" in the coronet of this unequalled nation ; and in time of peace or war, in time of trouble or prosperity, ever defend

"That banner with the proud device,
Excelsior."

Assassination of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward.

The Nineteenth Presidential Term of four years, ended on the 3d of March, 1865.

Mr. Lincoln was re-elected for the Twentieth Presidential Term, to commence on the 4th of March, 1865, with Andrew Johnson, of Tenn., as Vice President.

On Friday evening, April 14, 1865, while the President was in the

private box of a Washington theatre, John Wilkes Booth entered unobserved and shot him in the head, then leaped down upon the stage, fell and fractured his leg, but was up in an instant, and brandishing a dagger, shouted the motto of Virginia, "*Sic semper tyrannis.*" He made his escape to the rear and vanished. About the same hour Secretary Seward, who was lying in bed from a broken arm, was attacked by an assassin, who inflicted several stabs upon him, which have not proved fatal, and nearly killed his son, Frederick, and attendants, who tried to defend him; he also made his escape. It now seems there was a plot to assassinate the whole Cabinet and Lieutenant-General U. S. Grant. On Wednesday morning, April 26th, Booth, with an accomplice named Harold, was discovered in a barn near Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, and refusing to surrender, the barn was fired; his companion then gave himself up, and Booth was shot in the head; he lingered in such great agony as to beg his captors to kill him; he died in three or four hours afterwards.

President Lincoln never spoke after receiving the fatal shot, and died on the following morning at twenty-two minutes after seven, his face assuming a placid look as if going into a sweet sleep. Thus passed away the good, kind, honest ABRAHAM LINCOLN, not by the natural course of disease, nor in the accepted peril of war, but by the foul shot of an assassin, just when his efforts were being crowned with success in putting down the most gigantic rebellion the world ever witnessed. He made an idol of his country, and died a martyr for his integrity. For four years "a merciful Providence preserved him to the Nation—to defend its principles, to guide its counsels, and to lead it out from the bloody depths of a terrible war into the bright sunlight of a blessed peace. But in this first moment of high hope—when the dark cloud of war was breaking—when Peace was spreading her wings over the land—when all were buoyant with gladness—when the great heart of our murdered Chief was palpitating with joy at the fast coming time when bloodshed and slaughter should cease—and while seeking to know how he could best temper Mercy with Justice in dealing with those who, by their crimes, have draped the land in mourning—in this hour of security and repose, he was cruelly and brutally murdered."

On the 19th of April, 1775, this Nation was born in blood on the battle-field of Lexington. On the same day, 1861, it was new-born in the streets of Baltimore, by Massachusetts troops. On the same day, 1865, there was weeping and mourning throughout the land, and solemn public prayers were held, for ABRAHAM LINCOLN had gone through the gate of blood to join the noble army of our Country's Martyrs who had gone before him. May 4th, his remains were interred in Springfield, Illinois. "Men die, but principles live forever."

On Wednesday, July 5th, sentence was passed by the Military Court upon the conspirators connected with the murder of President Lincoln, and was approved the same day by President Johnson, to be carried into effect on the 7th. The sentence was that Mrs. M. E.

Surratt, David E. Harold, George A. Atzerodt and Lewis Payne, (whose real name was Lewis T. Powell, and the one who attacked Secretary Seward,) should be hanged ; and Michael O'Loughlin, Samuel Arnold and Dr. Mudd imprisoned for life, and Edward Spangler to be confined for six years. The execution of the sentence was one of the most summary on record ; it was made known to the prisoners on the 6th, and at half-past one next day their spirits fled to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

The following items will give some idea of the immense labor which has devolved upon the court-martial : Total number of witnesses subpoenaed, 463 ; number of witnesses examined, 361 ; number examined, including recalls, 422 ; number subpoenaed for prosecution, 247 ; number actually examined, 198 ; number subpoenaed for defence, 236 ; number actually examined, 163 ; total number of pages of testimony, (legal cap,) 4,300, making a solid pile of manuscript somewhat over twenty-six inches high ; the arguments will make in addition, 700. The vast mass of depositions, &c., taken by three Judge Advocates, prior to the opening of the case, employed five short-hand writers a fortnight, and will take two experienced clerks six weeks to brief and file away.

Havoc of War.

Official returns from the war office show that the deaths in the United States army, since the rebellion broke out in 1861, so far as heard from, with the estimate made for those returns not yet handed in, including starved prisoners, &c., will aggregate about 325,000. These are the deaths alone. When we estimate the wounded in the ratio of three for every one killed—which is less than the usual average—we see at what a fearful sacrifice of life and limb the nation has preserved its existence.

The war of 1756, waged in the heart of Europe, left, in one instance, no less than twenty contiguous villages without a single man or beast. The thirty years war, in the seventeenth century, reduced the population of Germany from 12,000,000 to 3,000,000—three-fourths; and that of Württemburg, from 500,000 to 48,000—more than nine-tenths ! Thirty thousand villages were destroyed ; in many others, the population entirely died out ; and in districts once studded with towns and cities, there sprang up immense forests.

Look at the havoc of sieges ; in that of Londonderry 12,000 soldiers, besides a vast number of inhabitants ; in that of Paris, in the sixteenth century, 30,000 victims of mere hunger ; in that of Malplaquet, 34,000 soldiers alone ; in that of Ismail, 40,000 ; of Vienna, 70,000 ; of Ostend, 120,000 ; of Mexico, 150,000 ; of Acre, 300,000 ; of Carthage, 700,000 ; of Jerusalem, 1,000,000 !

Of the French army in the Crimea, 7,500 men were slain in battle, 50,000 perished by disease, and 65,000 more were discharged as invalids. Of nearly 94,000 English soldiers in the Crimea, 4,419 were

slain in battle or died of wounds ; but 16,298 died of diseases at the seat of war, and nearly 13,000 were sent home sick.

Mark the slaughter of single battles. At Lepanto, 25,000 ; at Austerlitz, 30,000 ; at Eylau, 60,000 ; at Waterloo and Quartre Bras, one engagement in fact, 100,000 ; at Barodino, and Fontenoy, 100,000 ; at Arbela, 300,000 ; at Chalons, 300,000 of Attila's army alone ; 400,000 Usipetes slain by Julius Cæsar in one battle, and 430,000 Germans in another !

Take only two cases. The army of Xerxes, says Dr. Dick, must have amounted to 5,283,320 ; and if the attendants were only one-third as great as common at the present time in eastern countries, the sum total must have reached nearly 6,000,000. Yet in one year, this vast multitude was reduced, though not entirely by death, to 300,000 fighting men ; and of these only 8,000 escaped destruction. Jenghis Kahn, the terrible ravager of Asia in the thirteenth century, shot 90,000 on the plains of Nessa, and massacred 200,000 at the storming of Charaism. In the Herat district, he butchered 1,600,000 ; and in two cities, with their dependencies, 1,700,000. During the last twenty-seven years of his long reign, he is said to have massacred more than half a million every year ; and, in the first fourteen years, he is supposed by Chinese history, to have destroyed not less than 18,000,000 ; a sum total of 32,000,000 in forty-one years !

In any view, what a fell destroyer is war ! Napoleon's war sacrificed some 6,000,000 ; and all the wars consequent on the French revolution, some nine or ten millions. The Spaniards are said to have destroyed, in forty-two years, more than 12,000,000 of American Indians. Grecian wars sacrificed 15,000,000 ; Jewish wars, 25,000,000 ; the wars of the twelve Cæsars, 30,000,000 ; in all the wars of the Romans, before Julius Cæsar, 60,000,000 ; the wars of the Roman empire, of the Saracens and Turks, 60,000,000 each ; those of the Tartars, 80,000,000 ; those of Africa, 100,000,000 ! " If we take into consideration," says the learned Dr. Diek, " the number not only of those who have fallen in battle, but of those who have perished through the natural consequences of war, it will not, perhaps, be over-rating the destruction of human life, if we were to affirm, that one-tenth of the human race has been destroyed by the ravages of war ; and, according to this estimate, more than 14,000,000,000 of human beings have been slaughtered in war since the beginning of the world." Edmund Burke went still further, and reckoned the sum total of its ravages, from the first, at no less than 35,000,000,000.

SKETCH OF WHEELING.

WHEELING, the present Capitol of Western Virginia, was first settled in 1770. The first settlement was made by Col. Ebenezer Zane, and his brothers Jonathan, Silas and Isaac; also, among the first pioneers were Lewis Wetzel, Samuel McCollock, Adam Poe and his brother. The name Wheeling was derived from the creek, which now divides the city, which was formerly spelled Wheelin. Wheeling was first incorporated as a town in 1806, and as a city in 1836. A little more than 60 years ago it contained only about a dozen log and frame houses. The geographical position of Wheeling combines the agricultural advantages of an inland town with all the sources of prosperity arising from navigable water courses. Situated on the banks of the Ohio river it is at times accessible by water from any point of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and from the head of navigation to the Gulf of Mexico. The manufacturing facilities are not surpassed by any city in the United States. One of the main resources is the bituminous coal, which abounds here in inexhaustible quantities. The manufacture of iron is carried on here very extensively. Several large foundries are in full operation, giving employment to a great number of workmen. Glass is also a manufacture of importance, and a large amount of flint and cut glass is annually produced. The Wheeling Wire Suspension Bridge, which spans the Ohio river at this place, is a structure which reflects great credit upon the builders. The span is 1010 feet from the summit of tower to tower, leaving the entire width of the river unobstructed. The Act incorporating the Wheeling and Belmont Bridge Co., was passed March 19th, 1847, and in the same year the bridge was commenced, and was completed in Nov. 1849; in 1854 it was destroyed by a gale of wind, and was replaced by a temporary structure till the year 1860, when the new work was completed. Wheeling also, in connection with its water communication enjoys extensive rail road facilities, it being the terminus of the Baltimore

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